The present application discloses a method and system
of identifying and spotting segments containing key information
in voice messages. The method can be used to spot a key segment
such as a name segment in a voice message by detecting and
verifying the presence of a phrase such as "My name is ..." or
"This is ...". A particular key segment that may occur in
different messages is identified. That key segment is stored and
compared against messages. When a message is found containing
the key segment, the method provides the user with only the
pertinent information (e.g., the name of the caller), which is
contained in the key segment. This allows a user retrieving a
message to hear just a desired section or sections of a message
without listening to the rest of the message.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 through 8 under 35
U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being unpatentable over Logan, et al., US
Patent 5,732,216. Logan discloses an audio program and message
distribution system in which a host system organizes and
transmits program segments to client subscriber locations. The
Examiner cites against the claimed invention Logan's disclosure
that the subscriber has the opportunity to review and alter the
program selections and sequences that he/she has downloaded.
(Col 7, lines 42-50) For example, Logan teaches that "The
scheduled duration of each program segment may be displayed,
along with the elapsed time remaining to be played in the
currently playing segment, to enable the user to more easily

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determine when to skip the remainder of the currently playing segment." (Col. 11, lines 47-52.) Logan also teaches means to effect such playback. (Col. 12, lines 51-55)
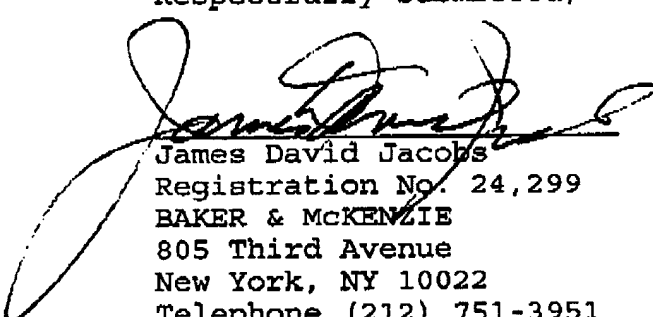
Logan neither teaches nor suggests that the key segment can be stored and used to identify key segments in messages other than the user then is examining. Accordingly, all the claims as amended are patentably distinguishable over Logan.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone the number provided below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment according to 37 C.F.R. §1.121. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 5, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (ONCE AMENDED) A method of spotting a key segment in a voice message comprising the steps of:

identifying a key segment;

storing characteristics of the key segment;

receiving a voice message;

comparing the characteristics of stored key segment against the voice message to detecting the key segment in the voice message;

tagging the voice message so as to indicate the location of the detected key segment within the voice message;

receiving an enquiry for the key segment; and

retrieving the key segment from the voice message.

6.   A method of spotting a key segment in a voice message comprising the steps of:

receiving a voice message;

receiving an enquiry for a key segment;

either obtaining the characteristics of the key segment from predefined key segments or storing the characteristics of the key segment;

comparing the characteristics of stored key segment against the voice message to detecting the key segment in the voice message;

tagging the voice message with the location of the detected key segment; and

retrieving the key segment from the voice message.

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